

January 29, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
3610 10th Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have written to Walter Breen and Lynn Glaser suggesting we all combine forces with respect to a book on the 1804 dollar which your organization might wish to publish. John Ford telephoned me and, in the course of the conversation, suggested this combination as being an effective way to present the various ideas of all concerned. Will you give me your reaction to it.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

February 3, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

It's always nice to hear from you. I certainly am glad to learn that you are willing to help us with the book on the 1804 dollars.

Let me bring you up to date on what has taken place already: Lynn Glaser is a nice young fellow who is doing a fine job with his numismatic research. He first contacted me in September at the suggestion of Dr. Steffanelli, who knew that I had quite a file of information on the '04 dollars. Lynn and I at first decided to collaborate on a story to be run in the SCRAPBOOK magazine and perhaps later reprinted for the WHITMAN dollar coin reference series.

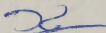
Now it has developed that Walter Breen is going to help us with the book and since we are also now adding your talents, I feel that we should make this book the ultimate story on this unique period of mint history and really produce a worth-while book. I have in mind a 128-page hard cover book that will sell for about \$2. Something like the WHITMAN books on Canadian and Roman coins.

The authors will be Lynn Glaser, Walter Breen, yourself and myself. The money that WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY ordinarily pays the author of such a book will be divided amongst the three of you. This will probably amount to something like \$100 apiece. Of course, WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY will stand all of the expenses of photography and the printing and distribution of the book, etc.

If all of this sounds agreeable to you, then let's go ahead full steam with the book. I should have my notes all together and in pretty good shape by next week and I will send copies of them to you and everyone else concerned. After that point, we will start comparing notes and try to get the text written.

I will be sure to keep in touch with you as things develop on this subject

'sever



Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING CO.

KEB:jam

February 8, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Dear Lynn:

I realize that 128 pages sounds like a rather big book. I suppose that you know 128 pages happens to come out exactly right for the printer in planning the proper number of signatures that go into a book. If we have a hard cover book, it will have to be this size; however, there are ways to stretch the manuscript or if we have to make fewer pages, we could perhaps use a heavier grade of paper and make the book appear thicker.

Here is a rather tentative plan that I have, and the reason why I believe we should shoot for 128 pages. With the introduction and all of the junk that appears in the front of the book, we would actually start on page 8. Then with a couple of blanks and an index in the back, we will have used up 11 pages before we even begin the book. The material that I have on the pedigree of each piece to go along with a full page picture of the obverse and reverse of each specimen will take up another thirty pages at least, which only leaves us 87 pages to fill at this point. Figure another twenty pages at least for the story of the 1804's and at least seven pages for the 1801 to 1803's and say another twenty for the Gobrecht's and that leaves us with only forty pages to fill for our story about the restriking of all of the other dollars and miscellaneous patterns. I don't see where we will have any trouble with that.

We work very closely with Lee Hewitt and so we would not want him to be unhappy about anything. However, he is a very understanding fellow and I feel sure that he will go along with our plan, especially since you and Walter are going to give him some other manuscripts.

I agree with you that we must leave out all of the worthless type articles that have been printed about the '04's, although perhaps we should review several of the typical ones. I have found several articles that contain authoritative information and I feel that we could publish these in their complete form.

*Now are
good*

*just a
date*
I have no idea how much longer it will take us to finish the article since I do not know what Eric Newman has in mind. My work is just about done and I know that Walter works very quickly. So perhaps it will not take us too much longer to finish the manuscript. We will be able to print it almost immediately as soon as the editorial work is done, so I should guess we could have the book definitely done by this year.

NOT
We would^{be} able to use photographic reproductions of the coins. We could, however, have the book printed by the lithographic process, which does a very fine job on pictures and if we take a full page for the obverse and reverse of each coin, one above the other, that would mean that we would enlarge the coins to about three inches in diameter. I think this would give us all of the detail that we need. If we still need to fill up extra space, we could run these enlargements in the back of the book and use a normal size picture of each coin along with the text.

No
Regarding the gold and silver restrikes of the 1804 Eagle, Walter maintains that the same¹⁵ punches were used on this coin as were used for the 1804 dollars, so it would be quite important to include this along with our story. I have seen both of these coins and I do not agree with Walter's theory. However, I have never had the opportunity to compare the dollar and the Eagle at the same time and I have rarely found Walter to be wrong on any of his statements, so I would suggest that we pursue this to the bitter end.

I feel that we must also mention the other patterns that were struck during this scandalous era of mint history, since they are all so closely related and were probably all struck by the same persons.

I like Newman's suggested title for the book. It is descriptive and has a popular tone to it. I feel that you~~are~~ using the word "Chicanery", while accurate, may not convey our theme to the average potential buyer of our book. Your suggestions for publicizing the book do not fit in with the WHITMAN policy. Rest assured we will give the book the full treatment of WHITMAN advertising.

Listing the relative condition of each dollar is not too important. If it gets to be a controversial matter, we had better not put much emphasis on it unless we can examine all of the pieces together and make a definite decision on their condition. Perhaps Walter's recollection of the coins will suffice.

I have traced the 1801 to 1803 proof dollars back to 1876. They were first displayed January 26 at the Jewett Sale. Haseltine had them and said that they came from England. He also had an 1804 with the collection. The piece was "not uncirculated" and was offered at \$600

(probably the specimen that went to Adams the next year for \$550). At any rate, I feel certain that Hazeltine had much to do with the origin of the 1868 restrikes. With this in mind, reread his statement in the 1907 NUMISMATIST page 104. We can now see that his whole letter was a complete lie and this may give major importance to his statement that the Idler dollar could not be a mint restrike when he said: "Suppose the officials in the United States Mint struck off say half a dozen 1804 dollars at a later period, say forty years ago." If all of the rest of his letter was false, perhaps this one statement was the absolute truth.

'sever

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Eric Newman ✓
Walter Breen

February 8, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I am very pleased with your letter of February 3 indicating that the 180h dollar matter will probably be the subject of an independent book rather than a series of articles in the Scrapbook first. It can be a very important numismatic contribution if well arranged, well illustrated, and logically written. Its scope must be carefully agreed to as Glaser seems to want to include 1884-5 Trade Dollars, Gobrecht restrike, proof dollar restrikes of 1840-58, etc. I would like to include the 1801-2-3 dollar restrikes, the "180h half dollar", the 180h Eagle restrike, and the 1833-4-5 half dollar restrikes because they are tied in with the 180h dollar. I have an open mind but feel that everything included should have something reasonably related to the 180h dollars (original, fakes, or subsequent restrikes of the fakes).

I have only three fundamental requirements:

1. That all prior work on the matter be recognized in footnotes, bibliography, or text.
2. That no attempt to make or legitimize the 180h dollar be made if the facts are clear that its dies were made about 1840 for the minting of a spurious coin.
3. That all authors be satisfied as to the specific text to be published.

Any compensation for Walter or Lynn must be satisfactory to them and I was hopeful that you could afford more than you indicate, possibly on a percentage of sales basis. Neither

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February 8, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.

the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society nor myself, personally, will expect any compensation other than out-of-pocket expense.

Please let me know, promptly, if you have photos of the 1601-2-3 dollar restrikes or of the 1833-4-5 restrike half dollars, or if Walter or Lynn has.

I look forward to the receipt of your notes.

This is going to be fun and I am going to sharpen my wit for the occasion.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

February 15, 1960

Mr. Ken Bressett
3610 10th Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I received your documentation of the existing specimens of the 1804 dollar and a copy of your letter of February 8 to Glaser. I realize the documentation is the result of a tremendous amount of work. I will have the Davis-Graves auction number for you shortly.

There is a great deal of work which appears to be necessary and this publication, in my opinion, should not be rushed.

The juxtaposition of the obverse and reverse on each coin should be determined, if possible, as this will show the fact that the coins were struck at different times because they are, apparently, at different angles on different specimens. ^{As} most important thing is to obtain a plaster cast of the lettering on the edges. I have a cast of the mint piece and Dr. Judd promised to make a cast of the Reed piece. Do any of you boys have the detail as to which edge letters are crushed or damaged and whether the edge letters are genuine?

I would be surprised if Walter said that the 1804 nestrike Eagle has the same letter punches as the 1804 dollar. I am studying a specimen of the 1804 Eagle, in silver, which belongs to Dr. Judd and each number appears to be different.

I would be definitely opposed to republishing any of the previously written material on the 1804 dollar as there is too little accuracy to talk about. It is perfectly all right to discuss and interpret excerpts but as far as anything which Chapman or Mehl state in their catalogues I am sure that accuracy was in no way to interfere with salesmanship.

Page 2
Mr. Ken Bressett

February 15, 1960

The portion of my work will be ~~intended~~ ^{intended} to show that the dies for the 1804 dollar, as well as the dies for the 1801, 1802, and 1803 restrikes, were prepared in the 1840 period and not prepared in 1804. If this can be convincing the word "restrike" should be thrown out the window and the coins called "artificial mint frauds." There is so little in previous literature to infer that the dies were not made in 1804 that it is shameful.

I have just photographed my 1804 half dollar and believe that and my altered date 1804 dollar should be included to illustrate the deliberate alterations.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

February 16, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I was very happy to receive your letter of February 8 and to learn that you are willing to work with us on the 1804 Dollar book. I think that all of us have about the same type of book in mind and I am sure that we can get together on what should be included in this book, even though our ideas seem to be a little divided at this point.

I am sure that we all agree on the three fundamental requirements that you outlined in your letter. The decision as to exactly which coins should be discussed in our book may have to wait until we are a little further along with our research and can tell exactly which coins were struck (or restruck) in connection with the 1804 Dollars.

It was our original intention to concentrate on restruck or fabricated dollars, however, we may ^{have} to extend this a little to include the Eagle of 1804 if those dies were made with the same date and star punches. Perhaps we should also include the 1833-4-5 half dollars, as you suggested, inasmuch as they must have been made at the same time and for the same purpose. I have never seen any of these restrrike half dollars. The only specimens that I know of are in the Smithsonian collection. I do not have photographs but I am sure that Dr. Stefanelli can get these for us.

The reason that we contemplate listing the 1884-5 trade dollars is, as I mentioned above, because we planned originally to concentrate on dollars only. I have no objection to changing our train of thought on the subject matter that we will cover in the book as long as the basic story centers around the surreptitious issuing of the 1804 Dollars.

I hardly think that we want to go into the complete story of all of the coins that were restruck or fabricated in the mint during the period from 1840 to 1880, but maybe we will have to before we are finished.

Perhaps we will only be able to cover the minting activities of certain individuals--if we can determine exactly who was responsible for these coins. The 1804 dollars seem to be the work of William Du Bois, Joseph Eckfeldt, Dr. H. R. Linderman, Colonel A. L. Snowden, and Mr. J. W. Hazeltine. Maybe we should only be concerned with the pieces that they made.

In 1857 many of the old dies found their way outside of the mint and people like Dr. Dickeson, J. W. Hazeltine, Ed Cogan, William Idler and J. J. Mickley issued quite a bunch of junk also. If we leave their activities out, then we will have at least narrowed the field down considerably.

My suggestion would be to include only the following items in our book: The 1801-02-03-04 proof dollars; the restruck Gobrechts; the proof dollars of 1840-1858; the proof half dollars of 1833-34-35 and the 1804 Eagle.

Whether or not we mention the half cents of the 1840's, the 1827 quarters, and the 1856 Flying Eagle cent, etc., can be left up to the rest of you to decide. I am not in favor of including the 1804 half dollar unless it is only to mention the fact that ~~1804~~ dollars or half dollars were coined with the date 1804 in that year regardless of what the mint records indicate. I believe that it is pretty well known that the 1804 half dollar from the Haines and Dr. Lewis Sale was an altered date; even though it brought \$1,000 at the Lewis Sale in 1883 (the coin was even noted as "probably an alteration" in that sale).

This certainly does look as though it is going to be a lot of fun and I am sure that the completed book will be a worth-while undertaking. Perhaps we should all try to decide first just what subject we are going to cover and then we can go at it full blast.

'sever



Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Lynn Glaser
Walter Breen

from Vernon Brown - Chase Bank

February 18, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

I was quite surprised at your opinion that the lettered edge restrikes were made in 1876. I can trace an electro of Idler's coin back to 10/25/1875, and Berg's coin also back to 1875. My feeling is that these coins were made between 1860 and 1868. I am also of the opinion that the dies were destroyed in 1868. There is one other possibility, however, that I have not overlooked: Could not all of the "restrikes" have been made in 1858-9, some of the coins were brought back to the mint, but nothing says that they were destroyed--perhaps at some later date, say 1875, the lettering was added to these coins. This could account for the bungled effect. Of course, this is just one theory and I am not claiming that it is right but it is something that we could keep in mind. Another alternative would be that coins were struck both with and without a lettered edge in 1858-9 and this would account for the piece that went to England and then came back as the Berg specimen.

I have seen stories about the plain edge coins being offered for prices from \$25 to \$200. The \$75 price that Nichols paid is the only positive record that I have, and this price doesn't seem out of line.

Thanks for the information about DuPont. I do not know if Amon Carter's father ever owned his coin. I plan to check with Amon by telephone as soon as I can catch him at home.

Government authorities stopped the Linderman Sale because it was full of restrikes and patterns that supposedly never should have left the mint. These were the coins that they removed from his collection before allowing the rest of it to be sold. The big question is, Why didn't they take the 1804 dollar?

I have never seen Haseltine's statement that he saw the 1804 dies and I have never heard anything about an explosion at the mint. Please let me know where you found this information.

I guess with all that I have written to you in the past month you should have plenty to talk over with Walter when you see him next weekend. I do hope that you can get some of these problems resolved. We especially need to be in agreement on what coins will be mentioned in our book, who was implicated in the 1804 scandal and when the class III coins were struck.

'sever

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Eric Newman
Walter Preen

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

February 18, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your latest letter which I received yesterday. I think we could save a little time if you would address your letters to me here at the WHITMAN office.

I agree with everything that you said in your letter, especially the part about not rushing this book, since I feel that our story should be authoritative enough to end this controversy once and for all.

Sorry, but I do not have data on any of the 1804 edge inscriptions other than the notes that I made in my pedigree list.

I am happy to have your explanation as to why you wanted to mention the 1804 half dollar. I definitely think that we should include a picture of this and a picture of a nice altered dollar. I have one photo now of an altered dollar that is very deceptive; even the stars are in nearly the correct position. I had also thought that perhaps we would include a picture of the alteration made by Bolen--the specimen in the ANS.

You were certainly very generous to suggest that the author's fee for this book be divided between Lynn and Walter. I was a little surprised when you mentioned the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, since I had never heard of this before. Would you be willing to tell me about this sometime.

'sever



Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

I like this idea because among other things I think it will probably fit well into the plan. Without any unnecessary filler. All our writing can be brief and concise. This way we will be if anything a little cramped, if anything and I think it will improve the quality of the book. Walter and I will start work on the fourth series when he comes down on the 27th. Will any info you have that we can do without Cobden's paragraph, or any questions you want to ask. For that matter send anything. Walter will probably read all or part of this so it won't be forgotten.

Best,

Sincerely

5/1/01

C.C. Dr. Eric Newman

Please excuse this
unorganized
mess. I thought
it would be
better to have
it all in one
place than to
have it scattered
all over the
place. I am
sorry it is
so messy.

February 26, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

Dear Lynn:

From the sound of your letter I think that you are jumping to conclusions in many instances and we are going to have to go very carefully from this point on to be sure that we include nothing but established facts in our story about the 1804 dollars. To get to the true facts about this story, we will have to read and consider many stories that are not true and try to come to some conclusions about what really took place, but for heaven's sake, let's try to be careful and document any conclusive statements that we make about these coins.

I am not prepared to indicate yet when the Class III coins were struck, however, your date of 1876 cannot be right since I can trace both these coins and the 1801, 02, and 03 proofs back to 1875. I don't believe that Chapman ever said that they were struck in 1876. I think he said that he was offered some about that time. There were none of the 1801, 02, and 03 dollars in the Linderman sale.

The rust spots on the reverse of the "restrrike" dollars are going to be very important to us. It is so easy to be deceived by photographs that one of us is going to have to examine several of these coins before we can reach any conclusions. It is entirely possible that the Class III coins were struck before the plain edge specimen. It could also be possible for the Class III coins to have been struck after the plain edge mint specimen and the rust spot partially removed by polishing the dies. This could also account for the fact that the stars are somewhat flatter on these coins.

In any event, how are we going to explain the fact that this reverse die ever became rusted? Was this die made in the 1838-1842 period along with the original dies or was the die made much later and the rust spots purposely put on there to make people think that

these were old dies that had been laying around the mint since 1804; and finally, when were the 1801, 02 and 03 dies made? My guess is that all of these dies were made at one time, probably 1838 to 1842.

I do not share the same ideas as you about the lettered edges. The equipment could have been still at the mint in 1838 inasmuch as it was being used on the half dollars until 1836. Apparently, the equipment was not still available for subsequent strikings. The edges on the Class III coins may have been faked by hand punching them. We should be able to find the answer to this after Eric completes his study of the edges.

I have never heard of a collection of counterfeit coins in the mint. I should imagine that the Treasury Department or the Secret Service Department would be in charge of this. The book that I mentioned to you would be only concerned with struck copies of United States coins. However, I do not plan to do anything about this until much later in the year.

sever

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Walter Breen
Eric Newman

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 20, 1960

Dr. Kenneth N. Strickland
Executive Editor
Science-Fiction Channel
1000 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, Washington

Dear Dr. Strickland:

I fear you purchased samples of the long defunct "Doubin" before your letter of January 14th, 1960, regarding the coin or coins. Doubin. The story is due to the lack of knowledge that you do not wish the project.

To the best of my knowledge we have no knowledge of the 1904 silver dollars. I believe that at one time there were four and six of these United States.

The die alignment on the lettered side "Doubin" 1904 dollar is 1/2. The 1904 is aligned with "D" in "DUBIN". The plain edged 1904 dollar, struck, as you know, in 1894 on a Silver Machine Press (dated 1897) shows a die alignment: 1/2. The 1904 is aligned with the second "D" in "DUBIN".

We will prepare photographs of the proof half-dollars dated 1891, 1892, and 1893, as requested. They were certainly realizations, and this is the only explanation for the identical reverse die used the same date.

We do not have any information on the side of the 1904 dollar that certain small operations (partially from edition to edition, the bottom, Page 28, Thomas Street, and Page 28, L. C. Street, (bottom) (bottom) is 1/2). Page 30, you may wish to include this because the recent conclusion of the manufacture of the first Doubin's coins in the United States (bottom) (bottom) (bottom).

I do not believe that you can consider the 1904 Doubin's coins, or the 1904 high relief plain edge, or the 1904 high relief lettered side "Doubin" (bottom) as regular issues. For in the 1904, the only Doubin's coins, the letter number "16" for the 1904 high relief lettered side Doubin's coins (bottom) needs revision: 20 or 22? I mention these two instances only to remind you that there are details to be corrected although I am fully aware that you are certainly better informed in this field than myself.

Sincerely yours,

W. W. (W. W. W. W.)
Director
Division of Numismatics

Mon. Afternoon

3/1/60

Dear Ken:

Walter and I got some work done on the book over the week-end. Among other things I. convinced us to go along with the '04 # and its variants issue. This will leave out to be treated a later. Our plan now is to include: 01, 2, 3, 4 postpaid 01 / restricted Metropoliit 1/24, '33-36(?) proof halves, and the following numbers: J-254, J-1152, J-1420, J-1470; also 1440-53, 1402 restricted people. We think all of these coins were made pretty much by the same people.

1876: You were right Chapman did say that were offered in '98 not necessarily struck then, but we must remember that some of the above mentioned patterns were struck then, and they were made the same sort of coin. However I am willing to give ground on the point and am willing to go along with you.

It is not possible that ^{any of} the Type IIIs were struck before the Type IIs if they were the die wouldn't be buckled as it is on the Type IIs but not very much on the Type I. As far as the stars being flatter, we may have to think that up to buckled dies, I don't know.

Walter and I agree that some one will have to examine the coins. We think AG's idea about checking the degree of rotation of the reverse dies is great. We should do it on all the specimens we can. At the same time the edge lettering thing isn't that valuable I. thinks that they had a complete edge lettering bar all the time but just didn't know how to use it, since in most places it seems to be a matter of the lettering being doubled etc. My had punch the edges of the Type IIIs. It's unlikely that some one would make mistakes doing that ~~considering this~~. Considering this, if we find the edge lettering on the type threes to have been ~~made~~ they probably wouldn't have the necessary punches any way. An old theory of the edge lettering determining different striking is out the window.

I doubt if the rest spots were purposely put on the dies. This would make it look like restricting from old dies. These pieces seemed to have been made with the intention of passing the as originals. Best *YWH*

March 9, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Dear Lynn:

Nice to have your latest letter and to learn that you and Walter got something accomplished on your weekend together. The list of coins that you have outlined to include in our article sounds pretty good. Of course we may have to add or subtract from this list before we finish.

I seem to be making pretty good progress on my end of this and I am still turning up interesting bits of information and revisions to my original outline of owners. I am enclosing a new sheet on the Rosenthal specimen to replace the old one that contained many errors.

I am also sending a couple of pages explaining my theory that the 1804 dollars must have been made 1839-1841, by William DuBois and possibly Jacob Eckfeldt, for the purpose of adding a specimen to the Infant Mint Collection and to supplement the Collection by trading for other rare coins.

In trying to determine when the plain edge restrikes were coined, I have traced definite references back to 1866 and I have just turned up correspondence from the Boston Numismatic Society to the mint complaining that mint officials had offered some of these coins to their members. No doubt Major Nichols was involved in this episode. This correspondence was dated 1861 and apparently touched off the investigation that caused these pieces to be returned to the mint. I am tracing this further, both through June Pond, who is checking the Boston Numismatic Society minutes and through Walter Thompson, who is sending me copies of the correspondence from the National Archives.

There are two other sources of information that need to be explored as soon as possible: Farran Zerbe's notes, which I believe Lou Werner now has, and the notebooks and records of William DuBois which were given to the American Philosophical Society. It would seem as if Walter would be the ideal person to try and examine the Zerbe notes and Eric would be the logical person to go through the DuBois notebooks.

This is getting to be more fun than a mystery thriller. I have learned the die alignment of three specimens, but will have to see more before I can draw any conclusions. I am anxious to have notes on the material gathered by Eric and Walter to see how far they have progressed and combine their theories and information with mine.

'sever

Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KES:jan

cc: Walter Breen
Eric Newman ✓

March 9, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
3610 10th Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

The correspondence of our gang is very fascinating and shows how much is still to be done on the 1804 dollar matter.

I have now examined the edge lettering on three of the 1804 dollars, the Smithsonian piece, the Massachusetts Historical piece, and the Reed piece. I am thoroughly convinced that the edge lettering is legitimate and was applied before the coin was struck and that the edge lettering was crushed against a plain circular collar when the coin was struck. The diameter of these 1804 dollars is virtually the same as the 1803 dollars which were struck without a collar. The collar was necessary because of the excessive pressure ~~because~~ of the steam-driven machinery as against the manually operated press.

I have not seen any of the edge lettering on the type-3 1804 dollars. This must be checked to see if it is genuine, to see if it was applied after the coins were struck, or to see whether old dollars were struck over. I have written to Johns Hopkins University for a cast of the edge of their piece but if Lynn Glaser could compare the lettering to a dollar of an earlier date we could find out if there was a difference in spacing or letters or anything of that nature. Perhaps some numismatist, in Baltimore, would favor us by looking at this piece.

I have written to Amon Carter, Jr., who has the 1801, 1802 and 1803 restrikes as well as an 1804 dollar of the third type but have not received a reply. I do not know him, personally, and since you do know him it would be well if you could write him and ask him to comply with my request. I asked him to send me the restrike dollars excluding the 1804 and if he does that I plan to ask him for the 1804. Would you be able to help encourage his sending them to me.

Page 2

March 9, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Brissett

If any member of the group knows who might lend me an 1804 dollar of the latter type, please respond. The difficulty, of course, is that any holder of such a coin knows we are going to cut its throat and may therefore be reticent.

One of the great arguments about the 1804 dollar is that the United States government did not wish its silver coin melted up because of the deviation in the price of gold and silver and therefore discontinued melting dollars. The illogical part of that argument is that minor coinage was issued in exactly the same proportions of silver so that anybody who had melting ideas could melt the minor coinage up as well as the dollars. Naturally, I realize that during the year 1804 few quarters were struck, no half dollars were struck, and no dollars were struck, leaving the tiny coins as the only meltable possibilities. The silver value must have eased slightly in 1805 and then increased again thereafter relative to gold. Perhaps it just was not practical to use half dollars for bullion as dollars were much more acceptable marketwise. Who can answer me?

Believe it or not, I am going to work a lion and a lioness into the article to show that the Imam of Muscat had no more to do with an 1804 dollar than Masser. The date would have meant nothing to him as he used Mohamadan dating, anyhow.

Good luck to everybody!

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EN/etb

EDISON BROTHERS STORES, Inc

March 9, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
3610 10th Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

The correspondence of our gang is very fascinating and shows how much is still to be done on the 1804 dollar matter.

I have now examined the edge lettering on three of the 1804 dollars, the Smithsonian piece, the Massachusetts Historical piece, and the Reed piece. I am thoroughly convinced that the edge lettering is legitimate and was applied before the coin was struck and that the edge lettering was crushed against a plain circular collar when the coin was struck. The diameter of these 1804 dollars is virtually the same as the 1803 dollars which were struck without a collar. The collar was necessary because of the excessive pressure ~~because~~ of the steam-driven machinery as against the manually operated press.

I have not seen any of the edge lettering on the type-3 1804 dollars. This must be checked to see if it is genuine, to see if it was applied after the coins were struck, or to see whether old dollars were struck over. I have written to Johns Hopkins University for a cast of the edge of their piece but if Lynn Glaser could compare the lettering to a dollar of an earlier date we could find out if there was a difference in spacing or letters or anything of that nature. Perhaps some numismatist, in Baltimore, would favor us by looking at this piece.

I have written to Amon Carter, Jr., who has the 1801, 1802 and 1803 restrikes as well as an 1804 dollar of the third type but have not received a reply. I do not know him, personally, and since you do know him it would be well if you could write him and ask him to comply with my request. I asked him to send me the restrike dollars excluding the 1804 and if he does that I plan to ask him for the 1804. Would you be able to help encourage his sending them to me.

EDISON BROTHERS STORES, Inc

Page 2

March 9, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

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Good luck to everybody!

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

March 16, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I was certainly pleased to receive your latest letter. However, I do wish that you would address your correspondence to me here at WHITMAN, since mail service is a little better here than at home.

Enclosed with this letter you will find all sorts of interesting bits of information that I have put together for the 1804 Silver Dollar story. The work that I have done on this so far is, of course, intended not to be a finished product, but only to show you the information that I have gathered so far. If anyone disagrees with the basic information contained in my notes, then we are going to have to back up and see what's wrong. Other than that, I am leaving it up to the rest of you to write an enjoyable story around the basic facts that I have revealed.

Your mention of the Imam of Muscat sounds interesting. We also show that the proof sets were sent to Siam and Muscat in 1834, which was before the '04 dollars were struck. In John Forsythe's letter of November 11, 1834, he describes the case (see W. B.'s mono. on U.S. proof coins, page 1). If we could find that letter, we would know exactly what coins were included in these sets.

I have still not been able to get an answer from Amon Carter, Jr., although I feel sure that we will get something out of him as soon as possible. I have written to J. J. Pittman to see if I can examine his 1803 proof restrike. I do not know of anyone else who owns the restrike coins. Do you know if Mrs. Norweb has any?

I have not yet determined exactly when and by whom the Class III dollars were issued. At this point, I believe that the 1801-2-3 proof dollars must have been made at that same time. The only positive information that I have is that J. W. Haseltine must have played a very important part in the restriking and that he handled the sale of most of them in the 1875-76 period. I shall attempt to write a chapter on these Class III coins as soon as I have a little more positive information put together.

One early author claims that there were records in the mint to prove that all of the 1859 restrikes that were called in were destroyed. Do you know anything about these so-called records?

We are going to need to examine Edwin Hydeman's restrike that Abe Kosoff is selling and we also need a picture of it. Is there anything that you can do along these lines?

Best of luck to you on your researching.

'sever



Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

cc: Walter Breen
Lynn Glaser

March 22, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Second Avenue
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

You really are gathering fascinating data.

I have written Kosoff about the Idler dollar, as per the enclosed. I think he will cooperate.

The November 11, 1834 letter from Secretary of State John Forsythe to the Mint Director, Seymour Moore, was supposed to be at the Philadelphia Mint. I know Gilroy Roberts, the engraver, well enough so that I could ask him to send me a copy. It must be found. Perhaps Lynn, being in that area, could readily obtain it.

As to the 1801, 1802 and 1803 restrikes, I am hoping they are of the 1838 vintage and have crushed letters on the edge.

I telephoned Amon Carter, again, and he was out of town. He will return this Thursday. I wish you would write him and ask him to send me the coins.

I do not know of any official records that the 1856 restrikes were destroyed other than the common comments by Chapman in the 1913 Lyman sale (July, 1937, Numismatist) where he says they were 1870 and made by a nephew of the superintendent of the mint. Do you think he was completely confused, or referring to something else?

The 1861 correspondence shows that certain dies of the recent past were destroyed. Does this mean that Peale, or others, had taken dies home and not returned them?

You may note in the Lyman-Low comment, in the A.J.N., he refers to the lettered collar. Maseltine also refers to the collar used for the lettered edge of the Idler piece in the April, 1909, Numismatist. It is interesting to see that neither of them understood that a lettered collar was impossible to get a coin out of unless pieced.

Page 2

March 22, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

Have you, in your notes, determined the source of the excerpt in the July, 1937, Numismatist on page 614? It certainly is after 1885 and I would like to know its source.

I have an important matter relating to beading, which needs checking on. The beading on the 1804 dollar may be the same as on the 1804 eagles. Do you know anyone who would know how many dies of the 1804 eagle exist? I have found only one die, so far, in looking at pictures of ten of them in the catalogues. My final thought is that it is entirely possible that the four of the 1804 dollars was used in connection with a medal made in the United States Mint. Is there any way you know of finding out which medals were made in the mint prior to 1840?

Any answers any of you can give us to any of the foregoing, I would appreciate.

This cooperative effort is really fun.

Cordially,

ERIC P. N. MAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

P.S. I have received a letter from the American Philosophical Society indicating that they do not have the notebook of William DuBois. All they have is two letters from him concerning the loan of books. His obituary is in their proceedings, Volume 20 (1883). Where did you get the idea that his notebook was there?

EPN

WHITMAN

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

March 25, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I feel sure that Kosoff will answer your letter. I have written to him twice but he never seems to get unbusied enough to answer. Lynn should be able to get the Forsythe letter from the mint. I hope that he will take that as an "assignment".

It seems logical that the 1801-03 restrike dollars should have been made in the 1840 period. However, I still feel that they are contemporaneous with the Class III dollars. First, because they made their original appearance along with a Class III dollar in 1876 and ~~actually~~, because the word CENTS on the edge is doubled just like the Class III lettered edge coins. We really must compare specimens of these coins side by side to confirm this theory.

I wrote to Amon Carter March 2. Perhaps he will answer all of us when he returns on the 24th. If not, I will try to contact him again.

Re: Chapman's statement about the 1870 issue made by a nephew of the superintendent. I do not think that he was completely confused but only that he had the date mixed up and meant to say 1860. See my enclosed article from Mason's Coin Collector's Magazine for the details. I consider this article to be one of the most accurate and important pieces of information that we have turned up so far.

Re: The 1861 correspondence. It is perfectly true that certain dies did leave the mint and were never returned. I am sure that you are aware of many of the restrikes that Haseltine, Dickeson and others made from dies that they "owned". One large lot of dies apparently were returned to the mint, however. See the article in the NUMISMATIST of December, 1910, page 258-259 for the important details of this episode.

Re: The 1937 NUMISMATIST article. This apparently came from Chapman's Collection Catalog of May 14-15, 1885, page 24-25 (when he sold the Dexter dollar). I do not have this catalog to check. The article

was reprinted in Evans' History of U. S. Mint 1892; Perhaps with certain additions they brought the article up to date. Evans notes that the article was taken from Chapman's catalog.

I have checked eight or ten photographs of 1804 Eagles and I can find only one original pair of dies and one pair of the restrike dies. The earliest listing of mint medals that I have found is dated 1873. This was in the AJN of October, 1874, page 38-39.

My reason for saying that the DuBois notebooks were at the Society is because of the following article--looks like I must have misinterpreted its meaning:

"Mr. DuBois was similarly faithful in keeping his notebooks of observations and experiments; and these volumes constitute an invaluable legacy upon outside subjects. He has left large and varied literary remains, including private notebooks covering a period of forty years--suggestive at times of Pascal. Some of his principle papers were contributions to the American Philosophical Society, of which he has been an active member since 1844."

The above was taken from his obituary which appeared in the American Journal of Numismatics, October, 1881, page 44.

'sever



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Walter Breen
Lynn Glaser

3012 Joshua Rd.
Lafayette Hill, Pa .

Dear Ken,

I was glad to see that you have made a considerable amount of progress at you r end of the line at least. Your account of the originals seems fine. I think an additional 1 refutation of the Inn of Muscat getting an O4 is the fact that he actually got a few proof sets not the complete set of coins he was believed to have gotten.

I hope to be able to see the Herbe stuff when Walter goes through it. Has any one written Werner recently?

I wrote the ANS asking them to list the coins left out of the Second Linderman sale. I hope they will do it for me.

Whitman seems to be making money, I see you have a new type writer. You didn't say any thing about ~~image using~~ that negative I asked if you would ^{print} ~~develop~~ for me and send to Dr. Judd so I'm sending it any way. If you can't do it send it back if you can there is no rush.

Do you think we can easially locate those patterns I listed as ones wh could include in the Mono? It would be nice to be sure that they were all struck with the same rev. die. (i. e. 57,3,9 proof rev. die.)

Do you know any good places to start looking for info. on Stellas, Commercial Dollars, Solid etc. I am thinking of doing some research in that direction ~~for~~ a possible article. This may seem like a sudden change from the Counterfeit and Lovett stories, but I originally thought that the counterfeit one would be an easy fast one to write, but it might not be and it looks rather boring if I had to work on it for a long period. The Lovett one I am still gathering info. on but have post poned any active work till summer. Are there any unanswered questions about these coins? Etc.

I don't remember whether I mentioned it in my last letter but Walter still thinks that the O4 restruck eagle might have the same of the same punches as the O4 dollar. (the punches were put in the O4 eagle die lightly this accounts for some of the difference. Next.

Sincerely

2-11
LJM

March 30, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Eacine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I spoke to Amon Carter and he will send me his 1801-3
restrike dollars and also his 1804 dollar.

Have a new crazy idea that the reason for the buckling
of the class III dollars is because the edge lettering
was put on after the coins were struck and the squeez-
ing between the guides caused the coins to buckle and
that the dies didnot buckle.

I have found confirmation that the edge lettering used
in the early dies of the mint was put on by straight
rather than curved guides.

Your information is terrific and I am delighted to
check and recheck to get to the facts.

Glad Lynn is going to get the letter at the mint.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/abb

CC: Mr. Lynn Glaser
Mr. Walter Green

April 1, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Brossett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

This letter is written by a really disappointed character. I received the 1801, 1802 and 1803 dollars belonging to Aaron Carter and none of them are the restrikes, all of them being the regular type of dollar, in nice condition. The 1801 is a gorgeous proof of Bolander h. Therefore, no information has been obtained from them; however, Mr. Carter has promised to send me the 1804 dollar which he has as soon as these particular dollars are returned. He doesn't want these returned until the middle of April, when he will be in Fort Worth.

It now becomes necessary for all of us to try to locate the 1801, 1802 and 1803 restrike pieces. I will write Mrs. Norweb. Will you be kind enough to write your sources, and Walter and Lynn may be able to give us other suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

April 1, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Eacine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

In the Lyman catalogue (See also May 1940 Scrapbook), S.M. Chapman says that the Type II 1804 dollars were struck by a nephew of the Superintendent in 1870 and sold them for \$200 each. The Superintendent got them back. If this was in 1858, then who is the Superintendent and who is the nephew?

James Ross Snowden seems to be Director of the Mint from 1853 to 61. Where did his nephew, Col. A. Loudon Snowden, work from until he became coiner in 1866? Low says in the 1969 AJN that a son who was a clerk did it and to save his father from disgrace the coins were called in. Mason says they were offered by Jacob R. Eckfeldt in 1860 at \$70.00.

Chapman says in the May 14, 1885 sale that they were struck in 1858. The Chapmans seem to keep their record of being uninformed, misinformed, and liars besides.

The correspondence between Collock and the Boston group in 1861 says \$75.00 was the price.

Now who do you think made the 1858 pieces?

Sincerely,

ERIC P. WHITMAN

P.S. I think I have found why Reale was fired in 1854: Secreting dies of medals.

P.P.S. I have borrowed the Lyman plates of the 1801-02-03 dollars. Shall I have them photoed for you?

EPP

atb

WHITMAN

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

April 5, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I am glad to see that you are making good progress on the 1804 Dollars despite the few disappointments. I will be quite anxious to get photographs of the Hydeman Dollar when Abe sends them to you and I would also like to have a copy of your photo of the Bryan Reed coin when you get them.

It was indeed unfortunate that Amon Carter's coins were not the restrikes. I still have not received John Pittman's 1803 but I will surely get a chance to see it next month at the Rochester Convention, if he does not send it before that time. The only photos that I have are of the Mougey and Lyman specimens. There are obverse photos only in the Cleneay Sale and some of these coins went to Mougey.

Lynn is going to try and obtain the Forsythe letter.

We all seem to have different ideas about the Class III coins and little positive information has been revealed to date. I feel confident that after examining a few of these coins, we will be able to more clearly determine how and when they were made.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY



Kenneth E. Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

cc: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

WHITMAN

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

April 13, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I hardly know how to answer your latest letter because I certainly do not know who it was that made the 1858 restrikes. However, I can answer some of your questions and add a few more bits of information so that we can all become thoroughly confused.

Colonel A. Loudon Snowden accepted the position of Register tendered him by his uncle, Director Snowden, May 7, 1857. He held this position until he became chief coiner in 1866, so it is entirely possible that Colonel Snowden was the clerk referred to.

On the other hand, Henry R. Linderman received his appointment as chief clerk of the mint, 1855-1864, through his uncle, Senator Richard Broadhead, and one of the early authors claims that it was "to save an uncle who held a responsible position from disgrace".

Low, of course, says that it was the son who was the clerk and to save his father from disgrace, the coins were called in--this, of course, could have been J. R. Eckfeldt, the son of Adam Eckfeldt and Mason's story that they were offered by Jacob Eckfeldt seems to tie this in.

If Breen can furnish us with documented evidence about his statement in "Proof Coins struck by the United States Mint" that "James Ross Snowden began restriking on an official basis having given the secretary of the Treasury official notice of the fact on or around February 25, 1859," then we have a strong case linking this Snowden with the restriking activities and his reluctance to answer the B. N. S. inquires and the fact that he must have destroyed all of this correspondence, would seem to incriminate him.

I have just located an interesting article in the American Journal of Numismatics, January, 1870, page 72, where Colonel A. Loudon Snowden, the chief coiner of the mint, stated that he has entire

control of the dies and gave positive assurance that to his knowledge there was not a single die existing back of 1869.

Regarding Chapman's goofy statements about the 1804 dollars; we must remember that Henry Chapman was apprenticed to Haseltine in 1874 and undoubtedly knew the true story about the dollars but simply made up his own version to cover up the truth in each of his sales.

Regarding the price of the restrikes in 1861; the story that I have pieced together from four or more different articles is that someone from the mint, possibly Eckfeldt, Jr., sold one of these to William Idler for \$70 and Idler in turn sold it to Major C. P. Nichols of Springfield, Massachusetts (a member of the B. N. S.) for \$75. One other piece was reportedly sold to a Mr. Cogan.

Apparently, sometime after 1861 when Pollock began an investigation prompted by the B. N. S. correspondence, these coins were returned to the mint. I can find no positive evidence that the mint had their plain edge specimen before 1885 and, in fact, very few collectors even knew about the ~~evidence~~ ^{existence} of these coins before 1885.

Now here are a few questions that perhaps you can answer for me: Just when did the mint acquire their plain edge coin? Does the Swiss Thaler really show as the under-type; I have not been able to detect this in the photographs. If this coin was really used, why did they pick a coin that was underweight to begin with (385 grains) and had a reeded edge that they must have removed to make the coin even more underweight (381.5 grains).

You may find some good information about Peale being fired in 1854. See Breen's article on page 11 of "Secret History of the Gobrecht Dollars", where he states that Peale's collection of old dies and hubs reverted to the mint cabinet in 1854.

I have the Lyman plates and so I do not need your copies of them-- thanks anyway.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KER:jam

cc: Lynn Glaser
Walter Breen

Apr. 15 60

Dear Ben,

I had hoped to have some more info. by now but have actually come up with very little.

I have disappointing news on the Forsythe matter. I am enclosing a copy of the acting surtd. letter stating that the records prior to 1900 are in the archives etc. and all that bull. I will see if I can get to it from another angle e. g. the chief coinor, a friend of BC's. Maybe he knows something about it.

Do you have the plates for the Paris sale of 1888? If so find out about lot 148. It is an 1898 dollar. Paris says "Wm. J. Jenks, the oldest Phila. collector came remember Col. Snowden making restrikes and says they have plain edges". This doesn't have much value except to verify what we already know, that Snowden made restrikes of Librecchts.

Your letter to Ben! Your idea that ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{idea} of J. R. & Seefeld was ~~the~~ ^{idea} made the restrikes is interesting. I had carelessly ruled out the Eckfelds because J. J. was much too young at the time and I figured that J. R. was spotless, maybe I was wrong on the latter.

I wonder whether the mint kept the Type II hidden until c. 1885? ~~Yes, it is too late to recover, what speak?~~ If so why were electrocs openly () sold. Maybe they were supposed to be Type II ().

Why do you want to know about "scale being fired in '94"? This probably has something to do with the ~~ADVERTISING~~ ^{ADVERTISING} OF J.S.D. and not the 04 as far as I know.

So, I see the 04 is ~~the~~ ^{not} restriked from a die made with the same puncher as the 04 ~~is~~ ^{is}. Of course we are still interested. Do you realize we have no info. what so ever about this.

Best.

Sincerely

Lynn

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

April 15, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thank you for the copy of Walter's letter. I did not know that he had been ill and I was happy to have this explanation of his silence and glad to see that he is making some headway on the 1804 research. I checked on the Snowden letter in the NUMISMATIST of October, 1953. This certainly is very interesting and would be a must for inclusion in our book.

Of course, the correct spelling is Bosbyshell. My two versions were simply typing errors. Walter is correct in doubting the origin of the Rosenthal story; in fact, we will have to suspect the history of all of the '04's before the pedigree that I have given in my outline--obviously none of them were ever received in change or over the counter of a bank, etc.

Am enclosing a copy of the article from the December, 1910 NUMISMATIST and I am also sending a couple of other interesting paragraphs that are taken from the 1884 Woodward auction of the Ely collection and his 1885 sale of the Randall coins.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

cc: Walter Breen
Lynn Glaser

April 19, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

Dear Lynn:

Keep working on the Forsythe letter; I am sure that you will be able to track it down one way or another.

I do not have plates of the 1886 Maris Sale; only fifty were made. I do have a priced catalog, however, and here is the description of Lot No. 119:

1838 Dollar. Beautiful brilliant proof in silver. Plain edge. Wm. J. Jenks, the oldest Philadelphia collector, declares that that the original Dollar of 1838, had a plain edge similar to the 1836. He remembers Col. Snowden making the restrikes, and says they had milled edges. This is probably the first ever offered with plain edge, and is the only one I ever saw.

You can see that this is just exactly the opposite of what your catalog said! The fact that this piece brought \$1.17 and the following lot, an 1839 dollar with milled edge, brought \$36 seems to indicate that the ^{buyer} prior must have known the coin to be a restrike and not an original.

Going back to the Woodward Sale of 1883 when the William J. Jenks collection was offered, I found Lot No. 118--1838 original (reeded edge) \$49. Lot No. 119, 1839 original \$39.50, all of which should prove that collectors at that time seemed to realize that the plain edge coins were the restrikes. If we can make any sense out of Jenks' statement, then it was Col. Snowden who made the restrikes.

As I said before, I can find no positive information as to when the mint acquired their plain edge specimen 1804 dollar. Apparently, they did not have it when Linderman wrote a short story for the AJN about the mint collection in 1876. The first sale of an electrotype made from the mint's plain edge coin was in 1886 Jenks collection mentioned above.

I think that we should wait until we can sit down and talk a bit before lining up any more of your manuscripts for publication by

Fidelity Union Sav.

the WHITMAN company. I am sure that you realize that the type of material that would be of use to us is something that must appeal to a large group of neophite collectors and is not quite the kind of material that you would be apt to be producing.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KTB:jam

encl.

cc: Eric Newman ✓
Walter Breen

April 19, 1960

Mr. Walter Breen
311 East 72nd Street
New York City 21, New York

Dear Walter:

Really sorry to learn that you have been sick again but glad to know that you are up and around at last. I will send a copy of your letter to Eric and as you know, I have been sending copies of all of my correspondence to all three of you.

I will not be in Detroit and probably will not get to New York City either although Dick plans to attend both of these. I will, however, be in Rochester and Boston. It looks like Boston will be the best place for us to get together.

Your arguments for the 1801-03 dollars being struck along with the Class III coins seem to be in order and fits in nicely with the other information that we have on these coins. It still leaves you wondering, however, just when and why the 1833-4-5 half dollars were made.

I was really hoping that you would know who Marshal Millward was. I have never heard of him before and can find no mention of him. Furman is more familiar. John Nexsen, in his 1891 AJN article mentions F. W. Furman of Providence, Rhode Island, as owning one of the 1804's believed to be an altered date. In this same article, he also notes a specimen in Liverpool, which he believed to be an alteration. Undoubtedly, both this and Mason's reference to the Liverpool specimen refer to the Watters coin. The only coin in Mason's article that worries me is the restrike that he claims turned up in Morristown, New Jersey--perhaps this was another alteration also.

sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Lynn Glaser
Eric Newman ✓

April 20, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken,

I have learned how edge letters were put on early coins. Not by a curved bar, but between two straight bars, both of which were lettered. The coin rolled only a half circumference. That is why the overlap in edge letters is in two places. I have written confirmation as well as proof from the coins. This is very important, in my opinion. The device must have been still on hand when Class III were made.

I finally received the picture of the Idler dollar, from Kosoff, so it is available for publication. First he sent me a picture of an 1804 dollar with an altered h. I think we should publish the alteration too as it is so well done.

I am now looking forward to receiving Amon Carter's 1804 dollar any moment.

I have the plates and catalogue of the Maris sale of 1886, for Lynn, and would like to know what he wants.

I am convinced that Peale was fired in 1854 because he fiddled with dies. He recovered the dies for the medals along with Adam Eckfeldt. This must have taken place long before 1854 when it was announced in Congress. He doesn't say where he recovered them and my guess is that he recovered them from himself.

With respect to Forsyth's letter, I think it is appropriate to write directly to the National Archives, and I presume Lynn will do that. It may also be advisable to write to the Archives to obtain copies of the diplomatic correspondence with the Imam of Muscat around the time of the Forsyth letter to see what was sent. If Lynn wants me to do that, I will be glad to.

Can't anyone find an 1801, 1802, or 1803 proof restrike dollar? Mrs. Norweb has not answered me as yet.

Page 2
Mr. Kenneth Bressett

April 20, 1960

I am convinced that Col. Snowden, the Eckfeldts, DuBois, Peale, and all of the gang knew about the 1804 "originals" and the 1858 restriking. The mint was a mass of incest so each covered for the other.

It looks like we are almost ready to do some writing.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 26, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken,

I now have Amon Carter's 1804 dollar for examination. The edge lettering is definitely genuine. The only problem is whether the edge lettering was rolled on before the coin was struck or after. My own feeling is that the coin was probably struck in a plain collar, that the edge was then lettered which, to some degree, might have expanded the outside of the face of the coin. The rim or any wire edge could then have been filed down as it shows a substantial number of small scratch or file marks around the area where the faces and the edge come together.

The rust spot under the left serif of the U is small and there are a couple of other tiny rust spots near it. The coin shows some wear and shows no signs of ever having been a proof. If you have a picture of it already there is no use for me to have a separate picture taken. The eagle's breast and head are very weak and the lettering on the ribbon between is unreadable in the center. The coin, as you know, is substantially double-struck on the entire right side of the reverse making some of the beading look like the roots of molar teeth and the lettering irregular.

One of the things which really bothers me is that I cannot convince myself, conclusively, that the dies could not have been made in 1804. The beading could have been put on in 1804 using the radial line punch with the bullet-nosed end, as was used on some of the 1805 and 1806 half dollars, to create bullet-nosed beading. In the 1804 the old dies could have been placed in a lathe and cut back to create the flat border at the outside of each surface. This would remove the outer portion of the radial lines and leave what would appear to be beading. I realize that there was no reason for cutting a flat border into the die, in 1804, but if an old 1804 die had been found and was to be struck with a collar on a steam press then the

Page 2

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

April 26, 1960

metal would have to expand somewhere since it could no longer expand outward. The reason the dies could not have been used in the old screw press was that the old screw presses were sold for junk when the mint moved in 1836.

Can any of you give me some way to disprove that an old 1804 die could not have been machined for the purpose of reuse? Since no 1804 normally struck dollar exists that is not enough argument.

I realize the ease of reproduction of these dies in 1840. The original punches were available and the transfer press made die-making easy. The probability that two reverse dies would never have been used is also slight. I admit the 1801, 1802 and 1803 restrike dies could not have remained unused in the period during which they were dated as they were desperate for dies and overdates so indicate. It would just put my mind at ease if one of you would give me a reason why the 1804 die could not have been made in 1804 and be machined down at the border in 1840 and misused at that time.

I hope this gives all of you something to think about.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Walter Breen
Mr. Lynn Glaser

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

April 29, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I am glad to see that you have turned up so much new information on the dollars. Things seem to be shaping up pretty well now so perhaps we can begin some actual writing before too long. I, too, believed that a straight bar was used for edged lettering. I am glad to learn that you have additional proof of this. I am also of the opinion that this lettering device ~~must~~^{could} have been on hand when the Class III coins were made and I have an idea that all of the Class III coins were lettered with this bar after they were struck. In fact, there is a possibility that all of the "restrikes" were made c1859 and a certain few of them were given the lettered edge at a later date. I have no real proof of this, however, but if we could find proof that the lettering bar was discovered at the mint sometime after 1859, this might explain why the Class II coins have a plain edge. If we eventually learn that all of the Class III coins and all of the 1801-2-3 restrike dollars have the same defect at the word CENTS, then I think we can safely assume that these coins all were lettered from the same bar at the same time. The fact that the mint's plain edge dollar and the restrikes that I have seen all have the same die alignment, leads me to think that they could have been made at the same time. The advanced state of the rust spot at U on the plain edge dollar would also support the theory that this coin was made after the Class III coins. I am not forgetting, however, that it is entirely possible that the die was re-polished and part of the rust removed at a later date.

Can you furnish me with a duplicate photograph of the Idler dollar? I do not need a picture of Amon Carter's coin if it is the Adams-Lyman piece. I have the photograph of this coin from the Lyman Sale --if Carter's piece is not this coin or if you think you can get a better photograph of it, then I would certainly like to have it.

I have not yet received a proof specimen of the 1801-2-3 restrikes. I expect to see John Pittman's next month. A small hoard of these coins supposedly exist and I am trying hard to get the opportunity to examine these pieces. I will let you know immediately, of course, if anything develops on this.

It seems strange that the Linderman specimen is the only Class III coin in proof condition; especially so when we consider that the 1801-3 dollars which may have been made at the same time, are always in proof condition. It is also hard to explain why most of the Class III coins are more or less double struck on the reverse side. Undoubtedly, the reverse die was not held properly in the press when these coins were made. Perhaps this will give us some clue to the striking sequence. I have also noted that the mint's plain edge specimen shows this same evidence of die shifting.

You have an interesting theory about the 1804 dies being made in that year. I had not thought of this before and can think of no reason to doubt that your theory could be correct. I would like to give it a little more thought and investigation, however, before accepting this as gospel truth. It is hard to believe that they would have unused dies available in the mint and at the same time continue to use the same reverse dies (Bolender A & B) for most of the 1801, 2 and 3 coinage. The practice of altering dates in the mint further proves that they were very frugal with their dies.

To answer a question in one of your former letters concerning why the mint ceased coinage of silver dollars, I can now quote the following letter:

Department of State, May 1, 1806

Robert Patterson, Esq., Director of the Mint: Sir, --In consequence of a representation from the director of the Bank of the United States, that considerable purchases have been made of dollars coined at the Mint for the purpose of exporting them, and, as it is probable that further purchases and exportations will be made, the President directs that all the silver to be coined at the Mint shall be of small denominations, so that the value of the largest pieces shall not exceed half a dollar.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) _____

James Madison

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

cc: Mr. Lynn Glaser
Mr. Walter Breen

April 29, 1960

Mr. Walter Breen
311 E. 72nd Street
New York City 21, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

Let me start off by explaining that I did not know about Snowden's letter that you published in the 1943 NUMISMATIST when I wrote to Eric. Your rather vague mention of this evidence prompted my suggestion that if we could find documentary evidence, we could have a good case against him. I am glad to know that you had this evidence in the actual form of a letter and the article, as you published it in the NUMISMATIST, will certainly bear repeating in our book.

I doubt that the Morristown, New Jersey coin was the 1803/4 dollar. (1.) Mason called it a restrike and (2.) the 1803/4 was in the collection of John Haigh, Sommerville, Massachusetts in 1891 and he obtained it from Antram, New Hampshire some years before that date. It was in the Saltmarsh Sale April, 1892 but subsequently withdrawn as an altered date.

It would be worthwhile if we could determine when DuBois made the 1804 electrotypes. He made copies of their Brasher Doubloon as early as 1863, but I have found no 1804 electrotypes earlier than 1883. It is hard to explain why they made electrotypes of the Class II coin rather than the original. My theory would be that they ~~didn't~~ wanted to publicize the coins with the second reverse possibly to aid in the sale of the Class III restrikes.

I still haven't figured out yet why they used the second reverse on the restrikes unless they had mislaid the original reverse for a time. If the 1801-3 dollars were struck contemporaneously with the Class III coins, then surely they had both dies available and could conceivably have struck more coins exactly like the so-called "originals". As I mentioned in Eric's letter, I am not ruling out the possibility that the 1804 dollars could have been made only in c1840 and c1859; the 1859 issue all being with plain edge. Theoretically, sometime later an edge lettering bar could have been found and the edges lettered. If this were true, it could also be possible that the original 1804 reverse was found at the same time and the

1801-2-3 dollars made. I suppose it is also possible that some hubs or punches were found at some date in the late 1860's enabling mint employees to make the 1801-2-3 dies and/or an edge lettering bar.

Colonel Archibald Loudon Snowden lacked only three months of being twenty years old when he entered the mint in 1857. He was born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania August 11, 1837. Apparently, he served as register or clerk until the outbreak of the war when he apparently organized a regiment of volunteers. Shortly thereafter, he returned to mint service upon urgent solicitation from the director. Whether or not this was in 1866 when he accepted the position of chief coiner, I do not know. His tenure as chief coiner lasted from 1866 to 1877 and he served as director from 1879 to 1885.

In a Woodward Sale of 1881 I found a very amusing story about a certain Colonel. I cannot tell if this referred to Snowden or not but certainly Woodward had no love for him: "He entered the army as a non com. and emerged as a Colonel--when his back is turned, the neighbors pityingly tap their foreheads and say the non com. part is evident enough now, but 'we can't see' the Colonel (non com. in the vernacular is short for non compos mentis, in which sense the neighbors use it; just what our hero means by it he has never explained)."

I hope you are over your virus now and feeling your old self again.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

cc: Mr. Eric Newman ✓
Mr. Lynn Glaser

April 29, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Dear Lynn:

Thanks for your latest letters. I don't believe that the research on the '04 dollars should stop just yet but admittedly we seem to have turned up about all of the information possible. Now we are going to have to fit this information together and try to make a workable story out of it.

Your accounting of the 1804 coinage is interesting and accurate but not new. This has been published in several different places. Checking through it I found only one mistake which I think was your typing error. On February 11 only one specimen was reserved for assay making a total of seven just as you had noted. Further confirmation of this is found in a newspaper from Northampton, Mass., dated March 5, 1805 where it states that the following coins were STRUCK in 1804. This is from a report to the president by the director of the mint covering a period from January 1 to December 31, 1804.

19,570	Dollars	1,055,312	$\frac{1}{4}$
156,519	50¢	1,795	\$10
6,738	25¢	34,475	\$5
8,265	10¢	7,327	\$2 $\frac{1}{2}$
756,838	1¢		

I guess there is very little else for me to comment on in this letter since you will be receiving copies of my letters to Eric and Walter containing additional information. I am also enclosing a couple of interesting articles pertinent to the 1804 coinage.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

cc: Mr. Eric Newman ✓
Mr. Walter Breen

May 5, 1960

Dear Ken Walter and Lynn:

Excuse my typing as my secretary should not be accused of doing this letter.

Ken's comments in his 4/29/60 letter are important. I agree that we are ready to write as soon as someone gets hold of the 1801-2-3 restrike dollars. I am sending back Carter's 1804 today and hope I get his restrikes shortly.

Ken, forget the lettering bars being mislaid or lost. They were always available but the difficulty of using them either before or after coinage with a collar apparently resulted in the plain edge being produced. I will write up the edge lettering section as I am making a drawing to show how the edge was put on the coin. Then you all can try to tear it to pieces.

I think you have hit on the solution when you say that the plain edge dollars and the restrikes were probably struck at the same time. The plain edge pieces were probably not destroyed in toto and had to be concealed for a while. Then they got edge treatment to make them look more like originals and had their edges turned down where necessary. The second reverse could have been used because the first reverse was much more rusted, both dies having been made in 1840 and the 1801-2-3 having been struck in 1859 or in 1840 ~~xxxx~~. (Must see the edges of the 1801-2-3 before being in a position to assert the foregoing). The die alignment is too identical to be accidental on the class II and class III. I imagine that the die alignment on the 1801-2-3 will be 180 degrees.

The photo of the 1804 Idler dollar is enclosed for Ken. It is lousy, but that is what Kosoff sent me.

I am enclosing for Ken the rust spots on the U greatly enlarged. This should be shown in order to show that the second reverse was not used when first made.

Incidentally the lack of rust spots, Lynn, is not positive evidence as a little grease or oilfith can keep a die from rusting. You cannot take out a rust spot except by ~~scrubbing~~ cutting deeper and this is hard to do in the field or in a letter.

I know of the May 1, 1806 Madison letter which we must publish but I even have a comment in 1845 of why dollars were discontinued in the early period. Half dollars had equivalent value in silver if anyone wanted to melt them. Illogical about the dollars but true.

The Archives have found a lot of letters etc concerning the dismissal of Peale. If anyone thinks this is important then I will order microfilm (Will cost less than \$7.50) colonial

Keep rolling. I am really having fun. It's stopped my coin research.

I do not wish my previous letter to be construed that I think the 1804 dies were made in 1804, but I want positive evidence that they could not have been if possible.

WHITMAN

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

May 17, 1960

Dear Lynn, Eric and Walter:

It looks as if our work on the '04 dollars is nearly finished. These following remarks are bits of related information and observations of mine that I think will be well for all of you to consider when putting the final story together.

I think that we have made some good progress by all agreeing that at least some of the Class III coins were struck at the same time as the plain edge specimen and had their edges lettered at a later date. I think that we will have to check the die alignment and possible double striking of all Class III coins in order to confirm this theory and determine whether or not some of the Class III coins may have been struck independently at a time later than 1859.

I now have a possible explanation of when and how the Class III coins were made. Look it over, tear it apart as much as you can and then tell me what you think of it:

By 1865 all of the 'original' 1804 dollars had been given or traded by mint officials to prominent collectors and friends. The Cohen specimen was probably the last piece to go. You may recall that he had several other related patterns in his collection including a Judd No. 254 that probably all came from the same source.

The price and demand for patterns had dropped considerably in the early 60's because collectors had become aware of the restriking practices in the mint. The price of 1804 dollars, however, had continued to rise through it all and undoubtedly DuBois could see that it would be best for them to produce a few more '04 dollars. He probably made a temporary effort to supply the demand by making electros of the mint specimen. Just why he picked the plain edge specimen for his electros is a little hard to say. My guess is that he wanted to make the second reverse known to collectors since he was probably at that time contemplating issuing the hoard of plain edge coins that someone was hiding in the mint. He may also have been afraid to use the valuable original for fear of damaging it. However, he apparently harbored no such fear in 1842 when they made electros to be used in the engraving process on Saxton's ruling machine.

Also remember that James Pollock was in office at that time (1861-1867) and he apparently made a sincere effort to stop the restriking practices. To make my story complete we must here assume that when Pollock gave orders to stop restriking activities and destroy all old dies, he also made it clear to those responsible that the plain edge 1804 dollars should be bought back to save the mint from disgrace; that the dies should be destroyed, and that he ^{would} ~~did~~ make trouble for anyone in the mint issuing surreptitious coins in the future. If we could find documentary evidence of this, my story would be just about complete. For the time being, however, let's assume that this is reasonable and go on from here.

By the time that Linderman succeeded Pollock (1867-1869) and A. L. Snowden took over (1866-1876) they had a situation whereby there was a demand for 1804 dollars but collectors and dealers were aware that the plain edge coins were restrikes and did not want them. Someone in the mint had a hoard of five to seven of them but didn't know what to do with them.

It appears to me then that sometime between 1867 and 1873 must have been the period when the edges were lettered and the coins once again offered for sale.

Throughout 1869 to 1872 Mickley made several trips to Europe with the expressed intention of buying coins for himself and the mint collection. In 1873 Linderman also made a trip to Europe with much the same thought in mind. It is well to remember here that at least two originals and one of the restrike dollars found their way to Europe at about this time. All of this was at a time when patterns rarely got out of the mint except to very special friends and specimens were not even placed in the mint collection.

Dealer Levick claims to have been offered plain edge coins and 1801-03 proof dollars in 1869. The statement was made some years afterwards but if we can accept it as correct, we might then conclude that in their effort to make unusual patterns or desirable pieces in the 1867-69 period, they used the original 1804 reverse and either had or made 1801-03 obverse dies and quite probably made these as plain edge coins. (remember, I am assuming that Pollock had the obverse and reverse of the restrike 1804 dollar destroyed c1862-63).

If all of the above could be proven or accepted as true, we might go one step further and assume that when Eckfeldt died in 1872 and DuBois became an assayer he may have inherited this hoard of plain edge dollars dated 1801-04 and made a quick decision to sell or get rid of them about the time that Pollock passed his very strict coinage act of 1873, being afraid that Pollock would put more pressure on them in an effort to eliminate these activities.

At this point they must have gathered together all of these plain edge dollars and run them through the lettering device which, apparently, squashed them out of shape and produced the concave/convex appearance that we have noted. This may have been Haseltine's suggestion or they may have offered the coins to him in a lot after they had completed the edge lettering. Whichever it was, I am certain that Haseltine got the lion's share of them.

Haseltine had at least four of the Class III coins at one time. J. C. Randall, his friend, once stated that he saw them and had a chance to buy them. We can also trace at least four of the seven restrrike coins directly to Haseltine, and the others: Linderman, Rosenthal and the mint, never left Philadelphia. It is also significant that when Haseltine first started selling the Class III coins, it was in connection with a set of 1801-03 proof dollars that he said he obtained in Europe.

It may also be significant that his father-in-law, Idler, (also of Philadelphia) was the first dealer to buy a plain edge 1804 in 1859 (paid \$70 and subsequently sold it to Major Nichols for \$75) and he also owned one of the first Class III coins and started making electros of it at least as early as 1875.

If my theory about the 1801-03 proof restrrike dollars is correct and they were made c1868, then we have the answer as to why the original reverse was used and why these coins have a sharp proof appearance quite unlike all of the 1804 dollars and yet also have edge lettering identical to the Class III coins. This would also explain why no specimens were preserved for the Mint Cabinet and why none of the prominent collectors like Stickney, Mickley, etc., received specimens for their collection. My guess is that most of the 1801-03's went to Europe for trading purposes with Linderman in 1873. He may also have taken the Berg specimen and directed the purchaser to resell the coin to Dealer Haseltine at a later date. (which he did).

Switching to the 1833-35 restrrike half dollars for a minute, we might note that these were probably made c1840* along with the 'original' '04 dollars and this is why specimens were placed in the mint collection. The coins seem to be so rare that they never did get into OTHER prominent collections.

Switching back to Idler and Haseltine again, let's remember that he (Haseltine) was a prominent Philadelphia dealer in 1873 and always on the lookout for unusual coins that he could sell. His restriking of the Confederate cent in 1873 shows his willingness to deal with coins of this nature.

Idler started his coin business in 1858 and the next year he started issuing advertising tokens in close imitation of rare coins. After Director Snowden issued a request for all Washington pieces so that he could add them to the mint cabinet (1859) Idler made several Washington items and quite possibly gave them to Snowden to establish their

* for Vatterman, as WB suggests

friendship--perhaps he even traded some to Snowden for desirable patterns.

A couple^{of} problems still remain to be solved and of course we really should examine all of the Class III dollars and restrrike dollars of 1801-03 to tell if my theory holds up. One of the questions that bothers me is why the mint saved that particular plain edge coin that had been struck on a foreign dollar with the reeded edge shaved off. My only explanation is that this coin was the sharpest and most perfectly struck piece.(possibly because of the alloy in the Swiss Thaler.) I have not seen the coin yet but I assume that it did not have the concave/convex effect that the Class III coins have. Undoubtedly, the coin was placed in the mint collection before the rest of the plain edge coins received their edge lettering. The exact date when the mint received this coin would be very important to us. If we could even establish exactly when DuBois started making electros of it, we would have a good clue.

Eric, you did not mention the die alignment of Amon Carter's '04 or the Idler dollar that Kosoff has. This is very important. Please try to find out. I don't know what sort of a story you are working up about Franklin Peale but I assume that you are trying to implicate him with the coining of the 1804 dollars since he was chief coiner in 1842 and apparently very much interested in restriking activities.

Well, this is my third and final chapter in the 1804 story. Let's see what each of you can do with it.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

keb; jam

1804 Dies with
Crosslet 4

1/2 cent - 5 dies

1 cent - 1 die

25 cent - 2 dies

50 cent - 3 dies

\$5.00 - 4 or 5 dies

\$5.00 - true restrike

\$10.00 - 1 die

1804 Dies with
Plain 4

1/2 cent - 1 die

1 cent - struck
from dies made
c1860 *rest*

10 cent - small
size die

\$1.00 struck from
dies made c1840

\$2.50 - small
size die

\$10.00 - struck
from dies made
c1859 - 1868

WHITMAN

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DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

May 20, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I hope you have finished with my rather lengthy letter of the day before yesterday. Here is a little more junk that I just thunk up.

The enclosed chart may prove to be good evidence against the 1804 dollar dies having been made that year. The point that I mean to bring out in this list is that only the small sized dies for the ten cent piece and \$2½ gold piece were made with a plain 4. The one exception to this is the single half cent die. The plain 4 in this particular die is quite unlike the 4 on the other 5 half cent dies of that year and may have been made by the same careless amateur who prepared the stemless wreath reverse die that was used with it. Furthermore, Walter Breen points out that die evidence shows these plain 4 half cents were possibly struck in 1805.

After finishing my latest letter to you I asked myself why it was the DuBois, Eckfeldt and/or Snowden knew how to use the lettering bar c1873 but not in 1859. I think that I have now found the answer to this in a letter written by DuBois in 1873. This letter was written to Hon. H. R. Linderman, Director of the Mint, in answer to his request for DuBois to supply him with information about the experiments made at the mint in 1860-61 with the intention of preventing the fraud of "filling" gold coins.

(This refers to gold coins that were sawed in half, the interior removed and replaced with a disc of platinum; Then the two halves joined together and the edge soldered with gold).

I will not quote all of DuBois' letter here. You will find it in the AJN January, 1874, page 65. It is well worth reading. In the first part of the letter he states the he was assisted by Eckfeldt in carrying on his experiments during 1860 and 1861. One of the coins that they must have worked on was Judd No. 269, a copper fifty cent piece of 1860 that shows an attempt at lettering the edge. I have written to Dr. Judd to try and obtain this coin so that we may better understand just what they did. The part of the letter that was most interesting is as follows. Remember, this is DuBois speaking in 1873:

"Now, in regard to the prevention of the fraud of filling, only two modes seem to be worth considering.

First, the door to this business is at the rim or periphery of the coin; the place where the reeding stands as a sort of chevaux-de-frise to keep out intruders. It would be a good thing to strengthen the defences at this circumvallation; in plainer terms, to fashion the rim so that it cannot be tampered with or imitated without easy detection. Formerly we milled a legend, in sunken letters, on this part of our silver half-dollars.

In France and Belgium, and recently in Spain, the gold coins are protected in the same way, but with raised letters; while in the German Empire, and some other countries, the thing is done as we used to do it.

Undoubtedly, it would be far more difficult to imitate or renew this lettering, whether raised or sunken, than the rib or reeding. They do that by making a new band, and going over it by the mechanical operation of a "nurling machine". Men of great skill may make the lettered edge, so as to be a fac-simile, according to the truism, "What one man can do, another man may do;" but I am strongly of the opinion that it would take too much time and labor to pay well. At any rate, it seems worth while to make the experiment."

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

5/27/1960

Dr. J. H. ...

Dear Sir,

I have just sent you a copy of the ... and ...
... and ...

This quantity of the ... and ...
... and ...

The ... of 1972 is ...
... and ...

Now in your ...
... and ...

I don't ...
... and ...

How can ...
... and ...

Pollock ...
... and ...

Sorry ...
... and ...

1958
1959

June 17, 1960

Mr. Walter Breen
311 East 72nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

You have brought out some very good points in criticizing my latest theory on the 1804 dollars. I have not heard from Eric Newman so I do not know how he feels about it.

I certainly agree with you that we must examine all of the restrikes before coming to any positive conclusions and, in fact, I said this in my letter. The photographs that I have are worthless as far as comparing the rust spots. An examination of this nature will have to be done on the coins themselves using a good glass. From what I have seen I am not entirely convinced that there is any appreciable difference in the size of the rust spots on the restrikes. Even if the restriking was done at several different times between 1859 and 1873, this would not change my basic reasoning about the way that the edges were lettered and the coins released to collectors. The die rotation position and the loose reverse die which produced the appearance of a slight double outline on the plain edge coin and some of the Class III coins is too much of a coincidence to overlook.

I am aware of the silver dollar reverse die that was saved and used after Pollock's Coinage Act of 1873 (Judd 1420-1-2, 1470-1.) I have asked Dr. Judd for a description of this reverse die and his opinion as to whether it was used on other coins or not. He has not found time to answer me yet but promises to soon. It seems possible that the die could have been made after 1873 with existing punches and not necessarily represent a die that had been saved against Pollock's orders. Here is Lovick's statement that I referred to. As I said before, this was made some years after 1869. He does not use the term "plain edge" but how else could he "tell at a glance" that it was a restrike.

Numisma - Ed Frossard

December 31, 1885

Page 9

"The origin of that wonderful 1804 dollar becomes more clearly distinguished as time advances. J. N. T. Levick authorizes us to say that one was offered him in 1869, but he "took no stock in it" because he saw at a glance that it was a restrike; a former collector who called at our office, stated that he saw and could easily have obtained one at the time, but he would not buy. Old Philadelphia dealers say that the number offered at sale bears no comparison to the number privately offered and sold, and that the supply from the old woman's hoard down in Jersey is by no means exhausted.

It is now also positively known that dollars of 1801, 1802, and 1803 were restruck by the same parties who restruck the 1804 dollar. These were called "proofs from abroad," and found a ready sale among collectors."

I have just examined John Pittman's restrike 1803 dollar and the 1833-34 and 35 half dollars. I will send some pictures and descriptions in my next letter. Apparently, the restrike half dollars are extremely rare. I can only locate his set and the ones in the Smithsonian. An 1834 and 1835 sold in the George H. Earle, Jr., Chapman Sale, June 25-29, 1916. See the photographic plates if possible, No. 2951, 2955.

My first impression of the 1801 and 1803 silver dollars is that they may have been made at two different times! The rust spots on the 1803 obverse and the advanced die crack through the date of the 1801 tend to confirm this.

'sever,

Ken Brossett
Numismatic Editor

KBB:jam

encl.

cc: Lynn Glaser
Eric Newman ✓

June 17, 1960

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

Dear Lynn:

Looks like I owe you a couple of letters. Can't remember if I ever thanked you for the 1804 photograph from the Wetmore Collection. They were excellent.

The prices of the 1943 copper and 1944 steel cents in the B. G. Sale were very interesting. Could you arrange to send me a price list when it is published.

Your offer to write reviews of all of the principle 1804 dollar literature is a good idea. I hope that you can start on this soon.

We had better forget about the so-called hoard of 1801-02 and 03 dollars that Dave mentioned. I spoke to Jim Ruddy recently and he said that the whole thing was only a vague rumor and probably doesn't even exist.

I am surprised and disappointed that Lou Werner would not allow us to use the Zerbe material. Perhaps as you say, it would not help us very much. Just the same I am going to ask Vernon Brown if he has copies of the Zerbe papers. He did at least have the Zerbe information on their Rosenthal dollar.

Walter, too, was interested in my theory about the plain and crosslet 4's on the 1804 coins and has given additional information to support this theory. While this is not positive proof that the 1804 dollar dies were not made in that year, it is certainly good evidence. The fact that date punches were used in preparing 1804 dies is further demonstrated by the five dollar gold piece with small 8 punched over a large 8 that was intended for use on the ten dollar piece. I have just examined the 1834

proof restrike half dollar and find that this is a plain 4 and the style of the 4 is exactly like that on the 1804 dollar.

I don't think that I have any complete list of dies that left the mint. The following dies were in the Mickley Sale of 1878 and were seized by U. S. authorities as government property: 1806 obverse of dime; 1806 obverse 25¢ piece; 1807 obverse of a half eagle; 1811 obverse and reverse of half cent; 1816 obverse and reverse of cent; 1817 obverse and reverse of cent; 1820 obverse of half eagle; reverse of 25¢ piece; 1820 and lastly, a miscellaneous lot of hubs and dies, obverses and reverses of American coins, eight pieces, broken and in poor condition.

Of course there were many other dies that got out of the mint. The NUMISMATIST article of 1909 that I referred to previously tells about some of them but does not go into detail. We can pretty well guess about some of the other dies that must have been used outside of the mint.

I would have no purpose in working on an article like this so go ahead and do whatever you want with it.

It could do no harm to write to the Turkish Government and see if the set of proof coins is still there. I doubt, however, that you would get a reply.

Does B. G. have any books on the coins of Popes? I would like to get several good references on this series.

The Burt Britton article seems to be okay just the way you have it. Go ahead and send it in to Dick Johnson.

sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

cc: Walter Breen
Eric Newman

June 29, 1960

Messrs. Walter Breen
Kenneth Bressett
Lynn Glaser

Dear Walter, Ken and Lynn,

I received the microfilm of the matters involving Franklin Peale and the charges against him. It seems that prior to the discovery of gold, in California, the Mint employees had ample time on their hands and whenever they did, they began to play. Adam Eckfeldt must have started all this and Peale followed suit and Peale got caught. The argument between Peale and Longacre is set forth at length.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

August 2, 1960

Dear Eric, Lynn and Walter:

Here are a few more notes for the 1804 dollar story. I haven't heard from any of you lately with specific plans about when or how you are going to begin writing this story. We seem to have a great deal of information put together now and since we probably will not turn up much new information, I hope that we can get together and finish off the book soon. I would certainly hate to see your interest die out now that we have gone so far.

Enclosed is an interesting paragraph by David Proskey; a new sheet covering the Berg Specimen to replace the one that I had sent previously; and photographs of John Pittman's 1803 restrike dollar and 1834 restrike half dollar.

The 1803 dollar is the one from the Mougey Sale of 1910. It is a perfect brilliant proof with frosted head. It has a very high wire rim--the edge is extremely thick, exceeding the rim in some spots. It is struck slightly off center with normal die alignment. ↑↓ The edge lettering is very poor--weakly struck in spots, letters missing and blundered especially at the word CENTS (CCNNS). A portion of the edge has no lettering and appears to have been shaved down. The piece shows no signs of being concave or convex. There are many rust spots on the obverse, particularly at the date and around the fourth star on the left hand side of the coin. These same rust spots on the Lyman Specimen definitely indicate that the Lyman coin was struck after this specimen. The die break through ITED to wing tip is definitely more advanced than on any of the original 1804 dollars.

In checking photographs of the restrike coins in the Mougey and Lyman Sale, I noticed that the 1801 Lyman coin has a much larger die break on the obverse (extends from star through date) than the Mougey piece. This would seem to indicate that the 1801 and 1802 restrike dollars were made at two different times.

The 1834 restrike half dollar has small date and letters and large stars. The 4 is plain and looks very much like the 4 on the 1804 dollars. This piece shows no signs of being concave or convex and has the proper die alignment. It is a proof of the old style that you would expect to find from that period. It does not have a high wire edge. The edge lettering is very weakly struck in spots and there is some evidence of reeding on the edge. I guess that is all that's new for now. Hope to hear from each of you soon.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

September 16, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Meun Avenue
Wacine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken,

I have been on vacation and for that reason you have not heard from me on the 1804 dollar matter. The only information I sincerely wanted was to see the 1801, 1802, and 1803 restrikes but since you have seen one of them perhaps that will have to do.

Do you have a fine photograph of them, because I think the figures in the date should be compared to other figures used for similar dates.

If you want me to, I will start to write a portion of the history, particularly the manner in which coins were made at the Mint in 1804 as compared to 1840 and proof that the dies were not made until the later date.

I certainly wish I had more time to put to it but I use hobby time only.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

ENP/atb

September 16, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken,

I have been on vacation and for that reason you have not heard from me on the 1804 dollar matter. The only information I sincerely wanted was to see the 1801, 1802, and 1803 restrikes but since you have seen one of them perhaps that will have to do.

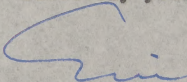
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ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

Original letter in
Good Samaritan file

September 12, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I have had no word from you for a long time. I trust that everything is going all right and that you are still interested in the 1804 dollar story. Walter, Lynn and I had a long discussion on the subject at the Boston ANA Convention but did not come up with any new ideas or plans for putting the book together. Each of us seems to feel that we have just about all of the information that we are going to be able to turn up on the subject unless we can examine several of the dollars themselves to study die breaks, rust spots., etc.

I think that now is the time for someone to begin putting the information that we have into story form. Would you be willing to start? The rest of us will try to help in any way you suggest.

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY • 1220 MOUND AVENUE, RACINE, WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

Original letter in
Good Samaritan file.

September 21, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your two latest letters. I am glad to know that you have been on vacation and that is the reason why I have not heard from you sooner rather than any lack of interest in the 1804 story. In my letter of August 2 I described the 1803 restrike dollar and sent pictures of this coin and the 1834 restrike half dollar. Will these pictures be good enough for you or did you ever receive that letter?

Nothing much new has turned up on the 1804 dollars during the past month. I did get to my personal library and find a copy of Chapman's 1885 auction catalog. I will give you a recap of what is in here as soon as I go through it.

I hope that you will start writing part of the 1804 story, as you indicated in your letter. I realize that you must be pressed for time but will appreciate anything you can do.

Is there anything that you can tell me about the Lima type Brasher doubloon. I am quite anxious to have your opinion on this piece, since we would like to have the GUIDE BOOK as authoritative and up to date as possible.

WHITMAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY * 1220 MOUND AVENUE RACINE WISCONSIN

DIVISION OF WESTERN PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY

September 21, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your two latest letters. I am glad to know that you have been on vacation and that is the reason why I have not heard from you sooner rather than any lack of interest in the 1804 story. In my letter of August 2 I described the 1803 restrike dollar and sent pictures of this coin and the 1834 restrike half dollar. Will these pictures be good enough for you or did you ever receive that letter?

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Is there anything that you can tell me about the Lima type Brasher doubloon. I am quite anxious to have your opinion on this piece, since we would like to have the GUIDE BOOK as authoritative and up to date as possible.

I am still not at all convinced with your theory about the PR

Ken Bressett

Ken:jam



sever,

Thank you for your kind invitation to spend a weekend with you and go over the 1804 material. I am sure that this would be the ideal way to bring this book into reality. All of my friends this month are tied up with visiting relatives and a trip to the Washington Convention. Next month, however, is completely open and I will leave it to you to pick any time that is convenient for you. I certainly am looking forward to our meeting.

10/3/60

October 10, 1960

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

You are trapped - (1) A specific gravity test on the PR won't show anything but the metal the coin is made of. It won't help determine the full weight or the area. (2) Just name some silver coins which are 10% off in weight even though a 72 grain standard and less than 60 grains in weight is 16-2/3% reduction at least.

You are fun to argue with so don't stop now!

I have begun writing on the 1804... I suggest that at a convenient date you come here for the weekend. Your company's only expense will be your transport. Stay here at the house and we will go over all phases of the 1804 book. Bring all your data and perhaps you will have by then rough drafts of portions I have written. What do you think? It is high time we meet.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPNa
ath